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MR. EDWARD WHYMPER has arrived at Copenhagen from his second exploration of W. Greenland. He brings with him rich collections of curiosities, and some singular specimens of fossil wood.

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ has recently been elected a foreign associate of the French Institute (Academy of Sciences). It may be remembered that the number of foreign associates of the Academy of Sciences is limited to eight.

WE are glad to learn that Mr. Charles Stodder has saved from the conflagration of November 9th, all his valuable stock of Tolles's telescopes, microscopes, and microscopic objectives. Work in the shop will go on, and all orders filled as usual.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*J. M., Penn.—The glass paraboloid, "Wenham's Parabola," has been prominently brought forward as a means of transparent illumination with high powers, by Chevalier Huytens de Cerbecq, of Brussels. As thus used it gives excellent definition with a well corrected lens, but fails completely with a poorly corrected one.—R. H. W.

R. M. D., New York.—It would probably be undesirable to have all objectives mounted in brasswork of exactly the same length measured from the focal point of the objective to the top of the mounting. The convenience attained in working with the straight form of a double-nose piece would not compensate for the disadvantage of wearing the rack almost entirely at one point. A general uniformity of length of compound body, however, is greatly to be desired.—R. H. W.

W. W. R., Indiana.—1. The best microscopical definition attainable at present is by means of "immersion" lenses. 2. They are practically as durable as dry lenses, since both will last, with frequent but careful use, until rendered obsolete by the improvements constantly being made in their manufacture. 3. They are not more liable than other objectives to injury by changes of temperature, etc. 4. Several first-class makers have been accustomed for many years to furnish immersion objectives which can be instantly transferred, by screw-collar adjustment, to dry objectives. Thus the owner has a choice of style, with no compensating disadvantage.—R. H. W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Verhandlungen der K. K. geologischen Reichsanstalt.* Nos. 1-6. 1872. 8vo.
Jahrbuch der K. K. geologischen Reichsanstalt. Bd. xxii. No. 1. Jan. - March, 1872. 8vo.
Bericht ueber die Thatigkeit der St. Gallischen naturwissensch. Gessellschaft. 1870-71. 8vo. 1872.
Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. 1870-71. 8vo.
Annales Academici, 1867-68. Leyden, 1872. 4to.
Sitzungsberichte der K. Akademie der Wissenschaften. Math. Naturw. Classe. Bd. lxxiv. Abth. 1. Heft 1-v. Abth. 2. Heft 1-v. 8vo. Wien. 1871.
Denkschriften der K. Akademie der Wissenschaften. Math. Naturw. Classe. Bd. 31. Wien, 1872. 4to.
Sitzungsberichte der Naturwissensch. Gesellschaft Isis in Dresden. Jahrg. 1872. Jan. - March. Dresden, 1872. 8vo.
Memoires de la Societe Royale des Antiquaires du Nord. 1866-71. Copenhagen. 8vo.
Transactions of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. 1871, 1872. Quebec. 8vo.
Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. 14, pages 225 to end. 8vo. 1872.
Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. 2, part 2, No. 3; part 2, No. 1; and Part 2, No. 2. 4to. 1872.
Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Part 2. May and Sept., 1872. 8vo.
A New Theory of the Origin of Species. By B. G. Ferris. 12mo, pp. 69. New Haven, Chatfield and Co. 1872.
On the Fossil Red Hematite Ore of Bedford Co., Penn. By J. P. Kimball. 8vo, pp. 22. 1872.
On the Silver Mines of Cushtutiac, Mexico. By J. P. Kimball. 8vo, pp. 11 and map. 1872.
Report on the Fairchauer Iron Company Estab. By J. P. Kimball. 8vo, pp. 28. 1872.
Le Naturaliste Canadien. Quebec, Dec. 1872. *Petites Nouvelles Entomologiques.* Paris. No. Feuille des Jeunes Naturalistes. Paris. No. 64. Dec., 1872.
 29. Dec., 1872.